

Dear PHC Members:

It is déjà vu all over again; only this year the new Speaker of the House, Matthew Ritter, has quite literally “stacked the deck” against we who are in favor of religious and medical freedom.

Speaker Ritter removed the two (2) Democrat members of the PHC who voted against last years’ attempt to remove the Religious Exemption to the school vaccine requirement – Jack Hennessy and David Michel – and he replaced them, and even added seats, with members who are already on record as being against vaccine choice, such as Josh Eliot and Will Haskell.

With the DPH numbers that just came out showing that BOTH Religious AND Medical exemptions FELL in the 2019-20 school year (which predated the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, as exemptions were due by 9/2019), it is yet again beyond perplexing why the Democrats overall and those who run the PHC are making it a priority to “fix” what is a non-existent problem.

A mere 20 years ago, Lt. Governor Jodi Rell touted how Connecticut had the then-highest vaccination rate in the country, at 91%.
<https://www.ct.gov/Governorrell/cwp/view.asp?Q=257400> With this week’s DPH numbers, it appears that Connecticut is currently at a whopping 97.5% vaccination rate!
<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/School-Survey?fbclid=IwAR1hDvSZ-IMZ2c5cKdc-9LN2b6ABYyIhb7C3GTiGltp28Nu6Qi3S5GRm3pU>. Add the fact that there are so many real public health issues facing the state in the light of the pandemic, and it makes absolutely no sense why this bill is being pushed at all, let alone made one of the first priorities of the PHC. We as citizens and concerned parents are left to look elsewhere for the motivation.

MATTHEW RITTER / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

Representatives Matt Ritter and Liz Linehan have been spear-heading this push to , drastically change current Connecticut vaccine law by removing the Religious Exemption, which has been a part of Connecticut’s vaccine mandate statute since it was first enacted in 1959. A br

Matt Ritter is a partner at Shipman Goodman. Shipman Goodman has as a client the largest private pharmaceutical company in the world, Boehringer Ingelheim.
<https://www.law.com/ctlawtribune/2018/10/08/covington-shipman-goodwin-prevail-in-another-defense-of-pradaxa/>

Boehringer (“BI”) just last month made a huge acquisition that will help it in its goal to be the industry leader in the human “Cancer Vaccine” industry. (Think “HPV” Vaccine and its ilk) <https://www.biospace.com/article/releases/boehringer-ingelheim-to-acquire-labor-dr-merk-and-amp-kollegen-to-strengthen-its-next-generation-cancer-immunology-program/?s=79>. “Boehringer Ingelheim is taking cancer on by

strengthening its position in cancer immunology, with a focus on cancer vaccines,...”
<https://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com/press-release/agreement-acquire-labor-dr-merk>

Moreover, as recently as 2018, Speaker Ritter’s father, former Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives himself, Thomas Ritter, was the lead executive of Connecticut’s 9th largest lobbying firm, Brown Rudnick;
<https://nebusinessmedia.uberflip.com/i/918562-book-of-lists-2018/79?>; and Brown Rudnick is the lobbyist for Boehringer Ingelheim. “Ritter’s father, a former Connecticut House Speaker, runs the government relations division of Brown Rudnick — a law and lobbying firm that represents drug manufacturer Boehringer Ingelheim and the Healthcare Distribution Alliance. The latter describes itself as “the national organization representing primary pharmaceutical distributors.”
<https://www.ibtimes.com/political-capital/why-are-drug-prices-going-democratic-power-players-help-pharmaceutical-industry>

In addition, Representative Linehan’s husband actually WORKS for the same pharma giant, Boehringer Ingelheim. <http://linkedin.com/in/brian-linehan-b504509>

In short, the Speaker of the Connecticut House, his family members, and the family of Representative Linehan, they both financially benefit gigantically from a vaccine-maker themselves and/or through their families.

Anyone who has been paying any attention to this issue over the last several years knows that there is a nationwide – even global, push be the Vaccine industry to have states remove their longstanding exemptions to vaccine requirements. Until 5 years ago, 48 states had a Religious or Philosophical exemption in their law; however, since that time California and New York’s exemptions have been eliminated by Democrat-led legislatures; and New Jersey’s Democrat legislature missed by a single vote last year. And, through conflicted Democrats like now-Speaker Matt Ritter, Connecticut’s Democrat legislature has been pushing hard for now at least 3 years to remove religious and medical freedom here in Connecticut.

I urge you all to have the fortitude to buck your party leadership and do the right thing. There is no “problem” that needs fixing – so PLEASE vote no on H.B. 6423.

Thank you.

Lindy R. Urso
Parent